

IDEAS CARRY ON

Bin Laden is deceased, al Qaeda still a threat

Professor: disturbed by America's reaction to bin Laden's death

Sam Diederich
news editor

The death of Osama bin Laden seemed like a good ending to a long war movie, but, as celebrations are replaced with contemplation, the death of the warlord is starting to look more like the beginning of a sequel than the end of a saga.

According to CIA Director Leon Panetta and reports by CNN, supporters of al Qaeda, the terrorist organization formerly headed by bin Laden, have vowed revenge, promising that "men and women in America will cry."

Craig Stapley, assistant professor of political science and Director of the Security Studies graduate program, believes that bin Laden's death will have no effect on al Qaeda's ability to coordinate attacks and military operations.

"You have to understand that the hierarchy of al Qaeda changed after we invaded Afghanistan. Before, it was a military style with very clear lines of organization, but after we moved in we killed off the middle level, so that left separation between the very top and the very bottom," Stapley said. "For a number of years, Osama has been isolated from the rest of al Qaeda."

"Al Qaeda is no longer one organization. Think of it like a franchise. The brand is out there, and you have groups like al Qaeda in the Arab Peninsula, in Somalia, in Indonesia,"

Craig Stapley,
Assistant professor of
political science

After the invasion of Afghanistan, branches of al Qaeda became disconnected with the group's military leadership, Stapley said. Bin Laden, along with his No. 2, Ayman al-Zawahiri, were removed from the day-to-day operations. Their influence as military leaders lessened, and isolated groups of al Qaeda began to direct their own operations.

"Once it was severed, that top, Osama and al-Zawahiri, started giving more general ideological guidance," Stapley said. "Bin Laden's death is a great morale booster, but in terms of eliminating al Qaeda as a threat, it's not going to change anything at all. More than anything, he's been providing an ideological center rather than operational control."

Al Qaeda's lack of a center of control has allowed for a quicker recruitment of new combatants and a more rapid spread of the group's presence.

"Al Qaeda is no longer one organization. Think of it like a franchise. The brand is out there, and you have groups like al Qaeda in the Arab Peninsula, in Somalia, in Indonesia," Stapley said. "They are kind of their own organizations that have adopted that al Qaeda brand, and they have not been controlled by bin Laden at all."

Stapley believes bin Laden's death may actually make al Qaeda more dangerous.

"Absolutely. He becomes a martyr now. Al Qaeda really has to stage some kind of reaction in order



Courtesy Photo

to stay relevant," Stapley said.

Reports from the Middle East echo Stapley's concern. On Monday morning, the United States embassies were advised to be on "full alert" for any attacks of retaliation. One U.S. soldier, who spoke with CNN on the condition of anonymity, said that a lot of military personnel have been called back to the Middle East.

Stapley added that bin Laden's death may not be the only motivation for radical Islamic groups to retaliate. The media coverage of American celebrations of bin Lad-

en's death may add to the forces that tend to divide American and Islamic cultures, Stapley said.

"I'm a little disturbed by America's reaction to bin Laden's death. It disturbs me to see people cheering in the streets for the death of anybody. That kind of joy and celebration reminds me of the joy we saw in the Arab world after the success of the 9/11 attacks," Stapley said. "I would suspect that if anything, it will alienate us more from the Arab world. I can't see how it can't."

However, retaliation by al Qaeda forces is not the only concern, Sta-

pley said. In the hours after the announcement of bin Laden's death, speculation arose surrounding Pakistan's role in the operation.

The compound where bin Laden was found is located less than 1,000 yards away from a Pakistani military establishment that some media sources have dubbed "Pakistan's West Point." Carl Levin, U.S. Senator and chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, added that the Pakistani army has "a lot of explaining to do."

Although details of the operation remain limited, Stapley said the speculation would likely put strain on the United States' diplomatic relationship with Pakistan.

"It's going to increase our distrust of Pakistan as an ally. And Pakistan has for a while not been very happy with the U.S. either," Stapley said. "The fact that we staged this raid in Pakistani territory, they look increasingly like they are the lapdogs of the United States, and that is something they have worked very hard to try to avoid."

Bin Laden's presence, in the rather comfortable conditions of a compound, casts doubt on Pakistan's ability to control their own territory, Stapley said.

"It's a concern that Pakistan doesn't seem able to control what's going on within their own border, very specifically up in the tribal areas they haven't been in control for a long time, yet they don't want anyone else up there trying to control it either," Stapley said. "That leaves a place that is just perfect for the Taliban or al Qaeda to find sanctuary."

Stapley does not expect bin Laden's death to hasten the U.S. withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan, and believes that al-Zawahiri will become al Qaeda's new "No. 1" and ideological leader.

The U.S. Department of State is currently offering up to \$25 million for information leading to the capture of al-Zawahiri, a reward which is at least five times larger than the reward offered for any other terrorist on the FBI's most wanted list.

Latino group holds beauty pageant

Community event sparked by discussion

Balasubramanyan
Meenakshisundaram
staff writer

The curtains opened to reveal nine beautiful women dressed in classic black and gowning to a medley of Latino music to the loud cheers of the crowd gathered at the K-State Student Union Ballroom on Sunday.

The women on stage were the finalists of the inaugural Belleza Latina, a beauty pageant contest for Latina girls at K-state organized by the Hispanic American Leadership Organization. The event itself means "KSU's Latina Beauty" according to Miguel Ramos, sophomore in business marketing and President of HALO.

The top three winners of the evening received scholarships for \$500, \$300 and \$200. The scholarships were made possible through various fundraising activities, sponsorship from patrons and also entry tickets to watch the pageant, Ramos said.

"We are one of the main four core multicultural organizations on campus," Ramos said.

HALO promotes multicultural programs and is involved in community service, Ramos said. The idea of a beauty pageant was a result of a discussion within the community.

"We wanted to showcase educated Latina women," Ramos said.

The pageant had four judges, with two judges from the K-State community and two from outside of town, according to Mirta Chavez, director for multicultural programs at K-State.



Courtesy Photo

"We got one judge from the KU HALO Chapter and another is a coach from Emporia State University," Chavez said.

All contestants had to go through a preliminary selection process which included having at least a 2.50 grade-point average, as well as writing an essay on why they think they should be in the pageant, according to Stephanie Jacquez, junior in food science.

The pageant began with the introduction of the judges and the nine participants by the hosts. The pageant consisted of four rounds: talent show, swimsuit competition, evening wear competition and on-stage question.

The mood backstage was rife with excitement from the contestants eager to showcase their talents.

"I'm very excited. It hasn't hit me yet," Jacquez said.

Other contestants echoed this sentiment.

"Right now I feel super excited. Go Latinas. EMAW," said Edlin Ortiz, senior in life sciences. Jacquez said her talent

was traditional Hispanic folklore dancing.

Isabel Troncoso, junior in sociology and international studies, said her essay was on how the media affects society.

"It is a good cause. It is a proper way to show what beauty is," Troncoso said.

All contestants had support from both family and friends. The parents of all contestants were recognized at the beginning of the event.

"I am very proud of her," said Isza Troncoso, Isabel's mother, who flew in from Dallas to watch and cheer for her daughter.

The show opened to a near-capacity audience.

"I think all the girls are really talented and have worked hard to represent HALO," said Rebecca Karnowski, senior in elementary education.

Pamela Maynez, junior in chemistry, won the title of Belleza Latina. Ortiz received second place and Julisa Hernandez, junior in elementary education, got third.

Tennis team falls to Texas Longhorns in quarterfinals

Cats eliminated from Big 12 by same opponent

Stephanie Carr
sports and multimedia editor

The No. 44-ranked K-State tennis team was on a three-match winning streak heading into the quarterfinals of the Big 12 Conference Tournament on Friday. That momentum was not enough to get past No. 25 Texas, as K-State fell 4-0 at the Baylor Tennis Center in Waco, Texas.

In doubles play, Texas' No. 54 ranked pair, Amanda Craddock and Cierra Gaytan-Leach, defeated K-State's team of freshman Petra Niedermayerova and junior Nina Sertic 8-5 in the No. 1 position. Texas then secured the doubles point with an 8-4 victory by Juliana Gajic and Maggie Mello over K-State's sophomore tandem of Ana Gomez Aleman and Carmen Borau Ramos. Gomez Aleman and Borau Ramos ended a three-match win streak to finish with a 4-2 record in the third doubles position. The Wildcats are 3-7 on the season when they do not win the doubles point.

More Wildcat win streaks were snapped in the singles competition. Gomez Aleman saw the end of her career best nine-game streak when she fell to the Longhorns' Krista Damico in the second singles position.

In the top singles competition, No. 49 Niedermayerova was unable to get the victory



Anthony Drath | Collegian

Junior **Petra Chuda** returns the tennis ball during the match against KU on Apr. 23. Chuda lost 7-6 in the singles.

over Texas' Aerial Ellis, who is ranked 26th in the country. Niedermayerova was on a career high seven-match win streak until her 6-2, 6-3 loss in the quarterfinals.

Borau Ramos fell to Gayton-Leach in the sixth position, 6-2 and 6-3, to give Texas the 4-0 sweep of the Wildcats.

This marked the fifth time Texas has eliminated

the Wildcats from the Big 12 Championship, with four of those match ups occurring in the quarterfinals. K-State has only made it into the semifinals one time.

K-State will soon find out where they fit in the national picture when the Women's Tennis Selection Show reveals the NCAA Tournament brackets today on NCAA.com.



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15 Deep sound from a bell

16 "Swiss Family —"

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Logan's Run | By Erin Logan



CITY COMMISSION

Commission begins repeal process

Danny Davis
staff writer

Newly elected Manhattan city commissioners are making the first steps towards repealing a discrimination ordinance. The ordinance, approved Feb. 8 by the former commission, added gender identity and sexual orientation to the protected classes list. They are holding the first reading of legislation to repeal the ordinance at tonight's commission meeting. According to the legislation that aims to repeal the ordinance, the commission decided to begin the repeal process at an April 19 briefing session. It specifies, however, that only the gender identity and sexual

orientation parts would be repealed, leaving all prior legislation intact. The ordinance has a storied history after work began on it in May 2010. At that time, the commission asked the Human Rights and Services Board to determine whether such discrimination existed in Manhattan and to determine whether or not an ordinance would be needed. Before it made its way to the commission, a draft of the ordinance was passed by the Human Rights and Services Board with a 5-1 vote. On Dec. 7, 2010, the commission approved the first reading of the ordinance at the commission meeting. Hundreds of people attended the meeting,

with many voicing their concerns during the public comment segment of the meeting. When it came time for a vote on the second reading, the commission voted 3-2 to enact the ordinance into law. Only two current commissioners were on that commission. Mayor Jim Sherow voted for the ordinance as mayor pro tem, and mayor pro tem Loren Peppard voted against the ordinance as commissioner. The K-State Student Governing Association voiced its concern about the commission's intent. At last week's Student Senate meeting, senators passed a resolution with a 55-2-2 vote in support of leaving the ordinance as it stands. Samuel Brinton, LGBT ac-

tivist and former student senator, said he will attend the commission meeting tonight. He played a large role in organizing support for amending the protected classes to include sexual orientation and gender identity. Students, he said, are protected while on campus, but lack that protection once they leave K-State. Without the protections, people can be denied housing, fired from employment or denied services simply based on their gender identity or sexual orientation. There will be a rally beginning at 5 p.m. at Johnny Kaw's Sports Bar, he said. The commission meeting begins at 7 p.m. at City Hall. The meeting is open to the public.

kansas state collegian

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IN THE BOOKS

30-year-old 4x800 meter relay record fell at Drake Relays

Paul Harris
senior staff writer

Junior Ryann Kraiss of the track team has turned in strong performances recently. Kraiss, along with sophomore Sara Stoakes, freshman Meghan Heuer and junior Boglarka Bozzay, took to the track on Friday night at the 102nd annual Drake Relays in Des Moines, Iowa, to compete in the women's 4x800 meter relay.

At the end of the race, Kraiss found herself in a very familiar position: first place. The team defeated Minnesota by two seconds.

In the process, the relay team broke a 30-year-old school record by 11 seconds. According to kstatesports.com, assistant track coach Michael Smith was confident the group could post a record-breaking time at the 4x800 meter relay.

Kraiss was far from done though. She posted a new school record in the women's 400 meter hurdles at last week's Kansas Relays. On Saturday, Kraiss broke her own record by more than four-tenths of a second just one week later.

Kraiss was not the only Wildcat setting new marks on Saturday.

Sophomore high jumper Erik Kynard was one of two

collegiate athletes invited to participate in the men's high jump invitational which features post-collegiate athletes.

Track and field head coach Cliff Rovelto said earlier in the week that Kynard expects to win any competition he competes in.

Kynard was unable to come away with the win, finishing second to olympian Dusty Jones, but he did beat his personal record at the meet. Kynard has the highest jump of any college-level athlete this season clearing a mark of 7 feet 7 inches. That also ties Kynard with the second best jump in K-State history.

Junior Nina Kokot took first place in the women's long jump. She propelled herself to a distance of 21-02.50. Her mark was a personal best, but it was wind-aided, so it could not count toward the record, according to kstatessports.com.

Senior TiAra Walpool did post a new personal best in the triple jump, but took 13th place.

Another group of Wildcats, including a few participants from the Drake Relays, headed to Lincoln, Neb., to compete at the Nebraska Open on Sunday.

Kraiss could not carry her momentum from Drake

to Lincoln, as she finished second in the women's javelin with a toss of 123-9.

Four other Wildcats finished second at their respective events. Sophomore Samantha McKnight finished second in two events, including the women's 100 and 200 meters. In the women's 100 meters, McKnight finished four-hundredths of a second behind race winner and teammate junior Kim Haberman, who finished with a time of 12.38 seconds.

Junior Gus Vazquez-Milan finished first in the men's 400 meters with a time of 50.31 seconds. Vazquez-Milan also took home first in the men's 4x400 meter relay. His teammates were senior Mortiz Cleve and sophomores Luke Hibbeler and Francisco Colomar.

Next up for the Wildcats is a trip home. K-State will compete at the Ward-Haylett Invitational this Saturday. The outdoor Big 12 Championships will kick off on Friday, May 13.

Anthony Drath | Collegian

Jenna Yoder, freshman thrower, prepares to release her weight during the women's weight throw at the K-State open on Feb. 18 in Ahern Fieldhouse.



K-State finishes 3rd in Big 12

Sean Frye
junior staff writer

The K-State crew placed third out of four teams in the third Big 12 Conference rowing Championship on Saturday at Wyandotte County Lake in Kansas City, Kan. Texas finished in first place with 111 points, followed by Oklahoma, which scored 85 points. K-State put up 67 points to place ahead of last-place Kansas (54 points).

Texas and Oklahoma, who are ranked 15th and 24th in the nation respectively, were the heavy favorites going into Saturday's races.

Texas claimed first place in all six races on Saturday, which made them the clear-cut Big 12 champion for the third year in a row. The Longhorns' biggest margin of victory came in the 2nd Varsity 8 race, where they beat second-place Oklahoma by 14 seconds. The Wildcats finished in third place in five races and did not field a boat in the 2nd Varsity 4 competition. The 1st Varsity 8 boat posted the best time of the year, as they finished the course in 7:02.5.

"It was quite interesting this weekend," said K-State head coach Patrick Sweeney. "With Texas, they're seasoned and they know what they're doing. There are a lot of foreign kids there. With Oklahoma, they recruit from the coasts so they have better talent as well. I think athletically though, we're right there with OU."

Heading into the competition, K-State only spent one day of the week training on the water at Tuttle Creek Reservoir, which played a huge role. Rain, high



Matt Binter | Collegian

(Left to Right) Allison Dorau, Emily Elliott, Aly Bronder and Rebecca Bohling row against KU in the last home rowing meet, the Sunflower Showdown, last fall at Tuttle Creek Reservoir.

winds and just sheer cold made it impossible for the crew to get on the water to train until Friday.

"We didn't get on the water last week and it wasn't the most conducive thing in the world," Sweeney said. "The girls raced OK, but not as good as they have earlier this year. We weren't that far off of Oklahoma though and that was good to see."

The team did some minor exercises in the water last Monday and Tuesday, but then was forced inside on Wednesday. They went back out for more drills on Thursday, then finally were able to get in a boat and train just one day before the competition.

"You have to adapt," Sweeney said. "You can't say, 'Hey, give us a length start because we didn't get on the water.' That's life, you get blown off sometimes. You can recognize that it affects the results, but you can't use it as an excuse. Obviously we want flat water all day everyday, but we just got to do our best to adapt."

One of the things the Wildcats were able to take home on Saturday was the satisfaction of beating KU for the third time this season. The Wildcats beat the Jayhawks in the Sunflower Showdown last October during the fall portion of the season, then secured another victory over the rivals just over a week ago at the Kansas Cup on Wyandotte County Lake.

"What's nice about that is knowing that we beat them even though we weren't as fast as we were the week before when we faced them," Sweeney said. "We stayed ahead of KU and I'm happy with that. That means the girls were determined and stayed ahead of them."

The Wildcats now have nearly two weeks to prepare for the Conference USA championships which start on May 14 in Oak Ridge, Tenn. They will face the same three teams from the Big 12, plus Alabama, Tulsa, Central Florida, Tennessee and Southern Methodist.

Sports unite American people



Sean Frye

It was the end of an era on Sunday night, and how fitting it was. Osama bin Laden is dead, killed in a United States operation in Abbottabad, Pakistan. It seemed poetic that on ESPN's weekly edition of Sunday Night Baseball, the New York Mets were playing in Philadelphia against the Phillies. In the ninth inning of the game, word of bin Laden's death began to spread throughout the crowd, causing a wave of "U-S-A, U-S-A" chants.

What seemed even more beautiful about the game was the way it ended. It went 14 innings long. When the game finally ended, the Mets won 2-1. The Mets were one of the professional sports organizations in the New York City area affected by the Sept. 11 tragedy caused by bin Laden.

Sports is my passion, but I grew up a military brat. My father served 20 years in the Air Force. I remember waking up at 5:30 a.m. on that dreadful Tuesday morning. I was half a world away from New York, Washington, D.C. and Pennsylvania and my dad was stationed at Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii. The 40-hour shifts he seemed to pull for the next couple of weeks are some-

thing I will never forget.

What happened in the sports world immediately following the attacks also has stuck by me. The National Football League postponed its games the weekend after Sept. 11 to a later date. But that, among other obvious postponements from various sports, was virtually the only stoppage the pro sports world saw. Exemplifying the spirit of the unified and determined American people following the attacks, sports carried on in an attempt to comfort a nation struggling to comprehend what had happened on their soil.

Just a month after Sept. 11, the New York Yankees played the Arizona Diamondbacks in the World Series. Former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani said in an HBO documentary that the Yankees playing those games at Yankee Stadium helped take his mind as well as the city's mind off the ground and gave them something to hope for.

My father and I are huge Kansas City Chiefs fans. I'll never forget the week the NFL went back into action, because the Chiefs played host to the New York Giants. The ceremonies during pre-game and the spectrum of emotions on the players, coaches and fans' faces was breathtaking. Then in 2005, on the fourth anniversary of Sept. 11, the Chiefs played host to the Jets. Fans in the crowd throughout that game held up signs of support for those affected by the tragedy.

In the end, I believe that sports are a true measure of

how unified and excited the American people can get. We have a president now that fills out a yearly March Madness bracket. Nearly every big sporting event has a fly-over of a military plane during the playing of the national anthem. Who can forget back in 1990 when then-Chiefs linebacker Derrick Thomas set a record of seven sacks in a single game, inspired by two A-10 jets that flew over the stadium? It reminding him of his father that had passed in Vietnam.

I was at a banquet last week and a soldier from Fort Riley took the stage to talk about how K-State sports connected those who are stationed who are fighting overseas to protect our freedom. Watching K-State football trounce Kansas and Texas gave the soldiers the biggest taste of home they could feel. That's just an example of how sports really do have a large impact in this country.

On Sunday night, people flooded the streets outside the White House cheering about bin Laden's death. There are only two reasons I can think of that can make people flood the streets unexpectedly for a positive reason and celebrate. The first one is because of a momentous world event and sports. The streets of Aggieville swell after any big win by the Wildcats. This is true all around the country for teams at all levels.

Sean Frye is a freshman in pre-journalism and mass communications. Please send comments to sports@pub.ksu.edu



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Coping with the pamphlet people, loudmouths and least favorite professors at K-State



Jillian Aramowicz

I love the atmosphere at K-State. It is a great school with a beautiful campus and a fun social and extracurricular scene. But even at a school you enjoy, there are always going to be people, places and things that still cause a great amount of annoyance. Some of these issues could be easily resolved if everyone was more aware of their actions and how much they bother other people.

For instance, I have a problem with the pamphlet people. Yes, I know they are doing this for a service organization and yes, I know they probably hate passing out papers just as much as the next guy, but I think life would be much easier if we didn't have pamphlet people at all. I know many groups use tables, but I think everyone passing out papers needs to start using a table with their propaganda laid out on it. This way, if you want to take whatever piece of information being pushed, you are free to do so, but you don't have to deal with that awkward feeling of holding a little New Testament Bible or something and wondering what circle of hell you are going to burn in if you put it in the recycling bin.

The point is, when rushing to and from classes, most people do not want to be stopped by a random person to take their propaganda you didn't even want in the first place. Put it all on a table. If I want it, I'll take it. If I don't, well congratulations, you are saving yourself both trees and trouble.

While on the subject of people in the K-State Student Union, let me bring up another issue I encountered recently. If you are in a public place with other people sitting in close proximity, do not discuss your sexual prowess in the loudest voice you and your friends

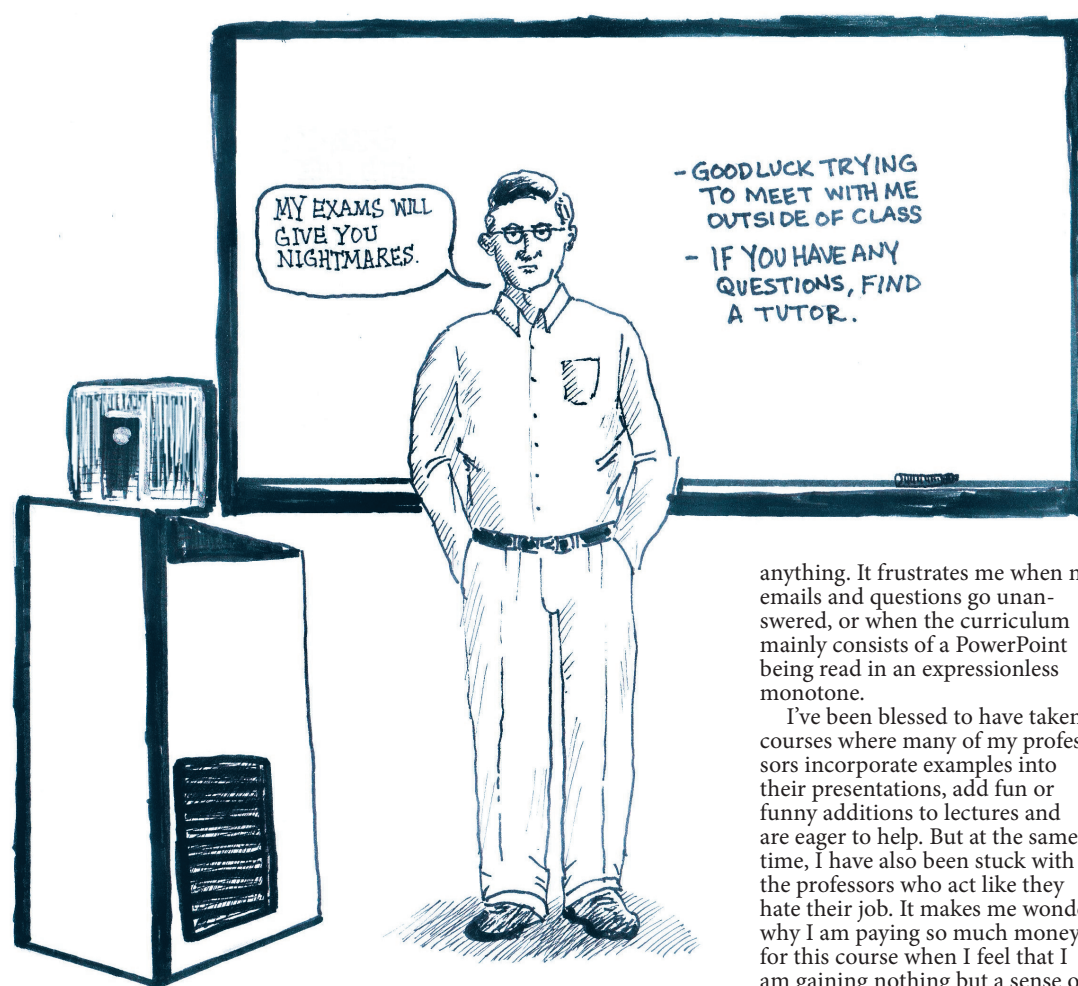


Illustration by Frank St. George

can possibly muster. This happened to me the other day. I was sitting alone in the Union checking my email next to a group of friends who were quite honestly arguing about who was the most promiscuous. It was the funniest thing I've ever heard.

Maintaining a sense of dignity and respect for other students in public is something that everyone should remember to do. Although I found these weirdly open people amusing, I have no doubt their conversation would have offended many people due to its content and volume. It is totally fine if you want to recap your weekend with your friends quietly, but when

there are other people around you, try to keep the graphic details of your night to a minimum because nobody else needs to hear what and who you were doing. The moral of the story? Watch what you say in public.

My final grievance with campus life is actually one with the faculty. I have had some excellent professors in my time at K-State. However, for every good professor I've had, I feel that I've also had at least two others that do not seem like they care about

anything. It frustrates me when my emails and questions go unanswered, or when the curriculum mainly consists of a PowerPoint being read in an expressionless monotone.

I've been blessed to have taken courses where many of my professors incorporate examples into their presentations, add fun or funny additions to lectures and are eager to help. But at the same time, I have also been stuck with the professors who act like they hate their job. It makes me wonder why I am paying so much money for this course when I feel that I am gaining nothing but a sense of cynical boredom for the subject.

Unfortunately, it is impossible to fix every little problem at K-State, but being aware of their existence is one step to making things a little easier, even if it is just as simple as pointing them out once in awhile.

Jillian Aramowicz is a junior in advertising. Please send comments to opinion@spub.ksu.edu.

LETTER TO EDITOR

Terrorist death sparks emotions

I have taken two shots of whiskey so far tonight. Two of many. As the United States celebrates the death of Osama bin Laden, I cheer with them all. However, for those of us on the K-State campus who have fought there, tonight brings about many emotions. I was told to turn the television on by my mother in a text message. I asked "why?" She said, "It's a surprise." I jumped in the air as I read the headlines "Osama bin Laden Killed." I shouted in joy.

I spent many months fighting in the mountains of Afghanistan and my joy quickly turned to sadness. For tonight, I celebrate for ones who didn't come home from my battalion — my brothers in arms. I am thinking back to my "baptism by fire." It was Easter Sunday 2006, Korengal Valley, Afghanistan. We were ambushed — two of my friends were shot. I am thinking of those who died in IED attacks and other firefights, still hearing the final roll call and taps being played. I am also thinking of the many American soldiers we placed into body bags, bodies unrecognizable, burnt by fire from a helicopter crash, for their final trip home. The heat was unforgettable. The charred bodies will be etched in my mind forever.

I still have a few more shots to go, but now I have one less. The shots are for those who gave everything for this day. Semper Fidelis to my friends who are in Afghanistan right now and those fellow warriors who are in the elite fraternity who fought in Afghanistan. Get Some. And yes, now I have one less shot.

Cpl Tannahill Tyler N
USMC 0311 2005-2009
sophomore in political science

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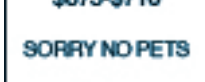
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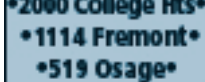
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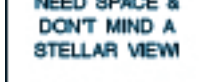
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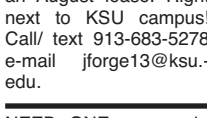
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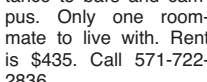
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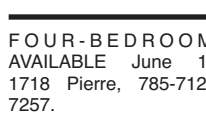
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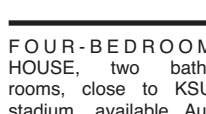
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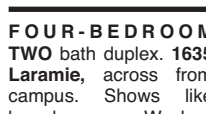
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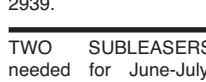
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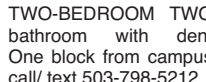
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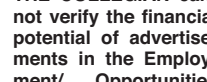
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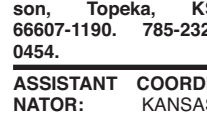
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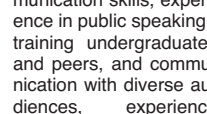
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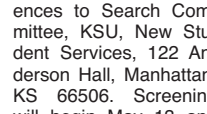
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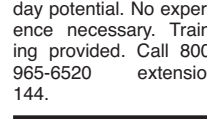
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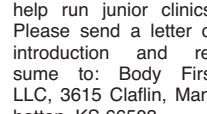
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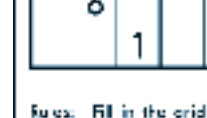
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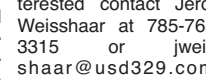
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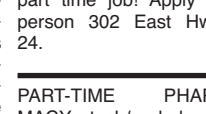
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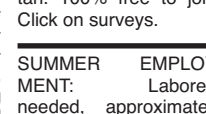
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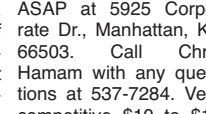
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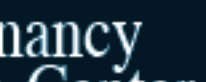
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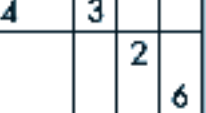
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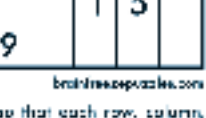
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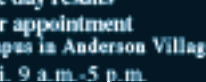
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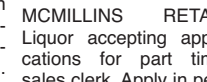
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McCollum's Development

Americans should recognize South African genocide



Ian Huyett

"Listen, you white bastard. I have AIDS. We are now going to rape your wife and give her AIDS too. Then we kill you." This is what a black gunman told Manie Potgieter as the clothing was pulled off his wife, Helena, according to a May 5, 2010, Times UK article.

Manie and Helena are Afrikaners — South Africans of European descent. They were targeted for horrific dehumanization and murder because, in the eyes of their attackers, their skin was the wrong color. Although the assailants were chased off before the Potgieters could be executed, others haven't been so lucky.

Since the takeover of the ANC government in 1994, racist black gunmen have grotesquely murdered more than 3,000 Afrikaners, according to a March 28, 2010, Times UK article. Often, Afrikaners are forced to watch as their family members are brutalized and tortured before being killed.

Gregory Stanton, head of Genocide Watch and a former law professor, said "There is a motive of hatred, that these are hate crimes. People are tortured and murdered in ways that are dehumanizing."

In a 2003 report on the attacks, Genocide Watch found that convicted gunmen "hated their Afrikaner victims and saw them as 'dogs' rather than people; and that they killed and tortured and raped for this reason."

"If your skin is white, the further you drive, the lower your chances of getting out alive."

Louis Swanepoel
senior in mechanical engineering

Louis Swanepoel, senior in mechanical engineering, is a K-State student from South Africa. He came here in June 2005 with his parents, who left South Africa to find work and avoid the rising tide of violence. He agrees that Afrikaners are the victims of an ongoing genocide.

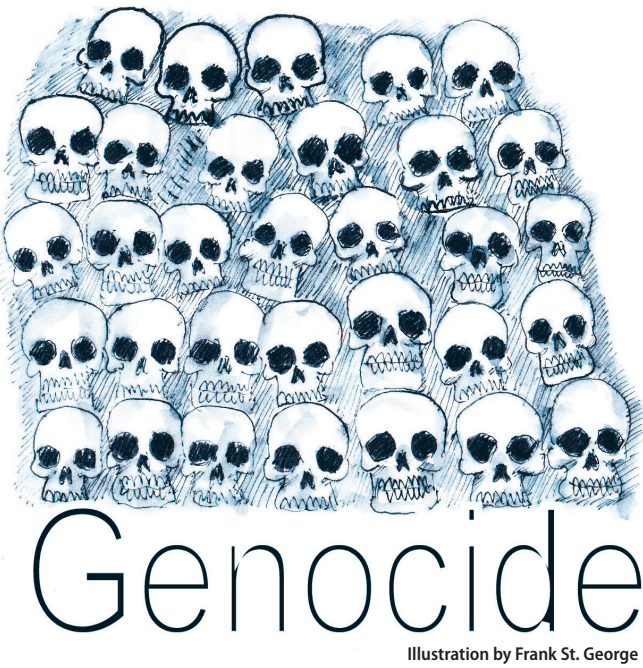
"My friend and his mother were assaulted with golf clubs and his father was killed with a shotgun," Swanepoel said. "After we moved, the people

who bought our house were murdered."

Swanepoel said the violence cannot be explained as a backlash against apartheid. "Afrikaners always get along with older Africans. The people conducting the attacks have grown up after apartheid. A lot of them aren't even from South Africa — they're from Zimbabwe and Mozambique." Swanepoel said of the genocide, "The ANC might see it but doesn't care about it," explaining that government policies systematically deny jobs to Afrikaners on the basis of their ethnicity.

According to an April 9, 2002, BBC article, a woman born in South Africa has a greater chance of being raped than learning how to read. In a June 20, 2009, Time survey of South African men, one in four admitted to being a rapist, making the country the rape capital of the world. In a survey of schoolchildren in the Soweto township, one in four boys said that "jack-rolling," a South African term for recreational gang rape, was "fun," according to a June 19, 1999, BBC article.

"Tourists will go to Soweto to see what it's like," Swanepoel said. "If your skin is white, the further you drive, the lower your chances of getting out alive."



A November 14, 2010, article in the Guardian reported that British newlyweds honeymooning in South Africa were carjacked in a similar township. The gunmen threw the man from the taxi and sped off with his 28-year-old wife. Her body was found in the backseat of the abandoned car.

Ethan Bezzek, senior in history, met his girlfriend

while studying abroad in South Africa.

"The ANC uses race and apartheid to remain in power," Bezzek said.

The K-State student believes apartheid is no excuse for the violence, explaining that gunmen are killing "people who were six when apartheid ended."

"It's a genocide because they're targeting a specific

ethnic group," Bezzek said.

Bezzek's girlfriend, Shavonne Janse Van Rensburg, still lives in South Africa.

"When developed areas are struck, nine times out of 10 the victims are white," Rensburg said.

Rensburg explains that ANC policies prevent victims from protecting themselves.

"The criminals in our country have more rights than the victims," Rensburg said. "If someone is breaking into my home, I have to wait until he's three meters from me before he's threatening my life. Then I have to fire a warning shot before I am allowed to shoot him. I am not allowed to shoot him in the back, so if my husband walked in on a guy raping me, my husband could not shoot him."

Walk onto any college campus in America and you can find students who admirably work against genocide in the Congo, Uganda or Rwanda. As citizens of one of the most generous nations on earth, we'll stand up for people halfway around the world we've never met. So why is no one standing up for the Afrikaners?

Ian Huyett is a sophomore in political science and anthropology. Please send comments to opinion@spub.ksu.edu

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